

Applicant: GIRALT, Pedro P.  
Serial No.: 10/064,449  
Page 2

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved pedestrian and bicyclist safety railing comprising:

a rigid top aluminum bar having a longitudinal, recessed bar channel protruding outwardly relative to the center of said bar, said bar channel having a predetermined cross-sectional configuration that includes a pair of tabs forming outer upper and inner lower channel portions in said bar channel;

a second bottom bar substantially identical to said first bar mounted parallel to said top bar, said bottom bar channel facing said top bar channel ;

a plurality of elongated, rigid pickets having a substantially rectangular cross section, with the width of one dimension of said rectangular cross section being sized for a snug fit into inner lower bar channel portions of said top bar and said bottom bar;

a plurality of spacer plugs each plug having a cross-sectional configuration complementary to, and fitting inside, the cross-section of said top bar channel and said bottom bar channel, each spacer plug including a pair of flanges providing recessed portions for receiving said top bar channel tabs and said bottom bar channel tabs for holding and interlocking said each spacer plug within said bar top and bottom channel, said spacer plugs being sized in length to provide a desired

Applicant: GIRALT, Pedro P.  
Serial No.: 10/064,449  
Page 3

distance apart between said pickets when in spaced engagement between adjacent pickets, each pair of adjacent pickets being separated by a spacer plug having first and second flat end faces that contact one flat side wall portion of each of the separated pickets; and

means for joining at least two end bars connected to said first bar and said second bar in a parallel configuration with one another, the plurality of pickets connected between said first top bar and said second bottom bar in a common plane, and spaced apart by the plurality of spacer plugs.

2. (Original) A safety railing as in claim 1, including:

said spacer plugs each being positioned between a pair of adjacent pickets and mounted within the top bar and the bottom bar, the end face of each spacer plug being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of each spacer plug for engaging in contact with the side wall of a picket for holding said picket in position.

3. (Original) An improved safety railing as in claim 1, including:

a first rigid post and a second rigid post welded to said top bar and said bottom bar;  
and

means for anchoring said first post and said second post to a concrete anchor connected to said first post and said second post.

Applicant: GIRALT, Pedro P.  
Serial No.: 10/064,449  
Page 4

4. (Previously Amended) An improved safety railing as in claim 1, to eliminate the welding joints between the pickets and the top and bottom support bars in the guard railing, said guard railing being constructed of aluminum.
5. (Previously Amended) An improved safety railing as in claim 1 wherein:  
  
said safety railing being suitable for mounting on an inclined surface, said spacer plugs having end faces angled substantially equal to an inclined angle of the safety railing relative to the longitudinal axis of the spacer plugs for snug engagement with each picket to separate adjacent pickets.
6. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing an aluminum safety railing comprising the steps of:  
  
forming a top bar and a bottom bar of aluminum and including a longitudinal channel disposed radially, outwardly in a predetermined direction and sized to receive the end portions of a plurality of aluminum pickets;  
  
disposing a plurality of aluminum pickets, each having one end mounted within said top bar channel and the opposite end mounted in the bottom bar channel; said pickets being sized to fit snugly in said top bar channel and said bottom bar channel;  
  
disposing a plurality of spacer plugs slidably interlocked within said top bar channel and said bottom bar channel, spaced between each of said picket top portion and

Applicant: GIRALT, Pedro P.  
Serial No.: 10/064,449  
Page 5

bottom portions and snugly engaged between adjacent pickets within said top bar channel and said bottom bar channel for rigidly holding said pickets in place without welding; and

connecting a support bar rigidly joining said top bar to said bottom bar at each end to form a guard railing; and

connecting a plurality of posts to said guard railing for anchoring into the earth.

7. (Withdrawn) A method as in claim 6, including the steps of:

providing an end picket at each end of the guard railing; and

welding the end pickets, top and bottom, to said top bar and said bottom bar, rigidly locking said remaining pickets and spacer plugs in place.